



# South Dakota Family Focus



A Monthly Update for South Dakota National Guard Service Members and Families

SDNG Family Programs

800-658-3930

<https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/sites/famsup/default.aspx>

## STATE FAMILY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! My name is LTC Bryan Jacobson and I have the honor of following LTC Tim Moran as the new South Dakota National Guard State Family Program Director. I joined this wonderful Army and Air Family team in September 2010. I've been in the National Guard for 27 years (this March) and deployed with the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group in 2004. I am married to DeeDee Jacobson (23 years!) and am blessed with two sons named Paul and Tim, grades 11 and 8, respectively.

One of our plans this next year is to re-tool our newsletter and go GREEN. So, with this issue, we are "testing" a new format. Here are some of our goals: (1) Make the newsletter shorter by limiting it to 2 pages yet full of relevant information in smaller bite size portions. (2) Publish monthly (more news in shorter blurbs). (3) Distribute by email (and hopefully FaceBook). Our intent is to enable you with this electronic format, to either print the newsletter as a reference for later in the year OR with a click of mouse, be redirected to our web page <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/sites/famsup/default.aspx> for more detail on the subject of your interest.

We do need your help! Please provide us any feedback you have at [familyprogram@sd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:familyprogram@sd.ngb.army.mil) to include updating our database. Finally, we'd encourage you to forward this to anyone within the South Dakota National Guard family that you believe would like to stay informed about what is happening in the SDNG Family Programs.

On behalf of the whole SDNG Family Program team – may you and your family be blessed in 2011! We look forward to the opportunity of serving you in the year to come!

Warmly, LTC Jacobson

## 2011 MILITARY FATHERHOOD AWARD

The nomination process for the 2011 Military Fatherhood Award began on January 18th. The nomination criteria is as follows:

- Nominee's ongoing commitment and dedication to children
- Nominee's extraordinary effort to father from a distance during military separation
- Nominee's efforts to successfully balance military life and family life
- Nominee's efforts to mentor/strengthen other military fathers and/or military children who are separated from their fathers.
- Unique elements to your nominee's story

**For more information please visit:**

[www.militaryfatherhoodaward.org](http://www.militaryfatherhoodaward.org)

## WHAT IS FAMILY ASSISTANCE?

Family Assistance provides a focal point of information through Six Essential Services. In other words, Family Assistance personnel are the "One Stop Shop" for assistance and referral for families. Service members are welcome to contact our Family Assistance Offices as well. Our mission and goal is to provide South Dakota Military Families with a ONE STOP SHOP for questions, assistance referral and beyond. We serve all branches of service within the borders of South Dakota. Services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL!

### **The Six Essential Services:**

Crisis Intervention and Referral

Legal Resource and Referral

Financial Education and Referral

TRICARE Resource and Referral

ID Cards and DEERS

Community Information and Outreach

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT YOU!  
HOW MAY WE BE OF ASSISTANCE?

### **Michele Anderson**

Family Assistance Coordinator

Contractor, HRCI

800-658-3930

[michele.m.anderson@us.army.mil](mailto:michele.m.anderson@us.army.mil)

### **Rachel VanderZee**

Family Assistance Specialist

Contractor, HRCI

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### **Kim Chase**

Family Assistance Specialist

Contractor, MPSC

866-597-0017

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**SCHOLARSHIP FOR MILITARY DAUGHTERS**– For the third year in a row, the Julie Foudy Leadership Foundation will continue to honor and support families who are serving our country by offering full scholarships to military daughters interested in attending the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy. This scholarship is open to ALL Service members (including Active, Guard/Reserve, and Veterans). Deadlines for the applications are: May 1, 2011 for first time applicants and April 1, 2011 for former scholarship recipients. Application materials and further information can be found at their website: [www.foudyleadershipfoundation.org](http://www.foudyleadershipfoundation.org)

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southdakotanationalguard](http://www.facebook.com/southdakotanationalguard)

## **A FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT (FRSA) WHAT?**

The Family Readiness Support Assistant Program began in 2003, when a need to further address Family readiness during times of rapid deployments became apparent due to the stress of those deployments on existing resources.

In coordination with the command leadership the FRSA provides Family readiness support, guidance, and assistance in day-to-day activities and functions. Developing family readiness programs within units includes Family Readiness Group (FRG) recruitment and training, Unit support and training, development of FRG telephone trees/email lists, Soldier Readiness Exercise support and many other details.

Our Family Readiness goal is to increase the state of preparedness of service members and their families in preparation for deployment and sustained participation during non deployment. We strive to do this through proactive education and support programs which promote self reliance, resiliency, and enhance individual and family well being and readiness.

**For support and questions, please contact us at the following:**

**Lynn Wright**

Phone: 605-737-6089

E-mail: [lynn.wright@us.army.mil](mailto:lynn.wright@us.army.mil)

**Bethany Erck**

Phone: 605-357-2970

Email: [bethany.erck@us.army.mil](mailto:bethany.erck@us.army.mil)

**Sheri Bartunek**

Phone: 605-737-6310

Email: [sher.bartunek@us.army.mil](mailto:sher.bartunek@us.army.mil)

Family Readiness Volunteer and Military Unit Rep training will be available on 12-13 February in Sioux Falls and 2-3 April in Rapid City. Go to <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil> to register or contact one of the above FRSAs for further information.

*We look forward to serving you!*



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**196th Reunion event** -Feb 26 in Sioux Falls

**139th Pre-Mob** - April 16-17 in Watertown

**200th Pre-Mob** - April 29-May 1 in Huron

For more information on these events contact your Yellow Ribbon Team at:

[yellowribbon@sd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:yellowribbon@sd.ngb.army.mil)

### **ANG YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM**

The Yellow Ribbon Program proved to be a very exciting and interesting year for the Air National Guard in 2010. I would be remised in not "Thanking" the entire **ARNG Yellow Ribbon Team** for their tremendous support and valuable insight into helping the ANG with their Yellow Ribbon program and events.

I believe the program is continuing to prosper and grow into a very informative program. From my experiences and observation at the Yellow Ribbon events, I believe the military members and their families who attend these events are gaining valuable knowledge, personal contacts, and the ability to access future support when needed.

I'm looking forward to 2011 and the unique challenges of helping to support our military members and their families.

- Mike Haugen, ANG Yellow Ribbon Program

### **LIFE TIES**

Life Ties is an inclusive training that introduces the tools necessary for a National Guard family to handle the stresses related to military life, as well as building the basic individual and family skills to allow them to function throughout life as a resilient family unit.

**19 Feb 11 - Sioux Falls - RTI Armory - 9 am - 5 pm**

**13 Mar 11 - Mobridge - Mobridge Armory - 9 am - 5 pm**

**27 Mar 11 - Brookings - Brookings Armory - 9 am - 5 pm**

Contact SSG Pearson at 605-737-6086 for more information!

### **AIRMEN AND FAMILY PROGRAMS**

Air National Guard deployments have been lower but we still have a few Airmen out of the country. Our Airmen are staying busy by attending Strong Bonds, Yellow Ribbon, and Family Program events.

Our volunteers sponsored a Holiday Express party for over 150 children. Santa Claus, gifts, and games were provided and a good time was had by all.

If you are in need of assistance please contact the Airman and Family Program Office. We know that times can become hectic and we are here to assist. We also encourage you to check Military OneSource at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). They offer a wide range of items for FREE, including financial guidance, counseling, deployment and family support.

We are all proud military families. Pride is very strong among those who prepare themselves for the unexpected. We at the Family Program Office want to extend this opportunity to have you come to the Air Guard Office or call for additional support. Again, thank you for your continued support to our Armed Forces!

**Nikki Wajer**

Airmen and Family Programs Manager

605-988.5962

[nicole.wajer@ang.af.mil](mailto:nicole.wajer@ang.af.mil)

### **YOUTH PROGRAM**

#### **Upcoming Camps-- SAVE THE DATE**

##### **SD Military Teen Camp**

- 6-10 June SDSU in Brookings

##### **SD Military Youth Leadership Camp**

- 18-22 July Camp Bob Marshall near Custer

(in conjunction with the 4H Teen Leadership Conference)

**Taryn Broomfield**

State Youth Coordinator

605-737-6919

**Candice Tvinnereim**

Deployment Youth Coordinator

605-345-4621